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DOH-COLLIER HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

*Local Health Department Program Is One of 76 Nationwide
to Receive NACCHO's "Promising Practice Award" in 2019*



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Naples, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier) was honored with the Promising Practice Award at the 2019 Annual Conference of the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO). Promising Practices are local health departments who have developed exciting approaches and strategies to public health issues and are on the path to the next level of achievement called Model Practices. "*School Health Screening Team: Quickest Vision Screeners in the State*" was one of 76 local health department programs to receive NACCHO's prestigious Promising Practice Award.

The vision system is critical to learning and, in many cases, visual health barriers to learning can be mitigated when medical intervention is provided (i.e. examination and prescribed glasses). Screenings in schools, for some children, is the earliest opportunity for them to receive services to mitigate visual deficiencies and/or limit their progression. Due to these factors, special focus was given to improving vision screening service delivery system by improving the speed with which the services were delivered; so, children identified by screenings could have a chance to get an examination and correction earlier in the school year. In School Year 2018-2019, DOH-Collier and its partners achieved its goal of providing vision screenings to over 14,000 students during the first 6 weeks of the school year, quicker than the reported data from comparable programs throughout the state.

"We are pleased to recognize local health departments striving to develop innovative public health projects to better ensure their communities' health and safety," said NACCHO's Chief Executive Officer Lori Tremmel Freeman.

NACCHO's Promising Practice Awards have honored programs, resources, and tools that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health challenges. Each innovative project receiving the Promising Practice Award was peer-reviewed and selected from a competitive group of over 150 applicants.

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About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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